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# North Pinellas County *Retired Educators Association* **NEWSLETTER**



PO Box 4248, Clearwater, FL 33758

Vol. 49, Issue 1

September/October 2023

## **Coming on Sept. 12: SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTERING**

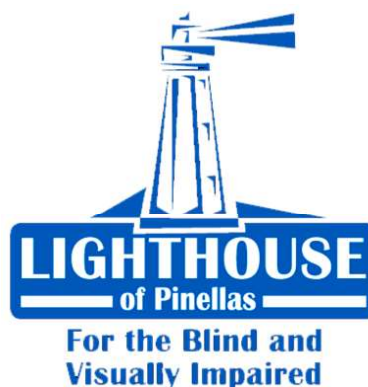


Jordan Snead, Preparedness Planner at the Florida Department of Health, will speak to us about “Special Needs Sheltering” in West Central Florida. As Region 4 Planner for Citrus, Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sumter counties, she provides guidance to Emergency Shelter managers throughout the eight-county region.

To celebrate our “Back to School” meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 12, please wear your college colors. Also be prepared to share your summer travels and highlights for our “Oh, The Places We Have Been” report in our next newsletter.

Please bring socks and underpants for donation to “Clothes to Kids” in Clearwater. Many young ones need these items to enable going back to school.

We gather at Clearwater Country Club at 11 am; our lunch will be lemon-grilled chicken, scalloped potatoes, carrots, rolls, and ice cream sundae for dessert. Please RSVP to [npcra@gmail.com](mailto:npcra@gmail.com) by September 6 if you plan to attend.



## **On Tuesday, October 10,**

we'll gather at Clearwater Country Club at 11 am and meet a special-needs teacher from Lighthouse of Pinellas.



Danielle (Dani) Johnson will tell us about the various Lighthouse of Pinellas classes and programs to help the blind and sight-impaired lead happy and productive lives.

Please wear some fun Halloween gear or some bright fall colors. We'll have Share the Wealth and door prizes, so don't miss out on this fun fall gathering.

Our luncheon will include stuffed shells, a small salad and garlic breadstick, and an ice cream sundae for dessert. If you prefer, you can select the Clearwater Country Club salad as an alternate meal. Please RSVP to [npcra@gmail.com](mailto:npcra@gmail.com) by October 4 if you plan to attend.

# From Our President:



Welcome Back to the new school year!

Many of our members have traveled around Florida, the United States and the World and are glad to be home. Share with us your adventures. This can be done by completing the form

found at our first meeting on Tuesday, September 12, at the Clearwater Country Club, or send information to Mary Blackmon (email [maryfairway@aol.com](mailto:maryfairway@aol.com) or text her at 7273480771).

Thank You to our members who participated in our two "Stuff the Bus" projects. After lunch at Capogna's Restaurant on August 2, the day teachers reported back to work, we delivered school supplies to the Pinellas Education Foundation in Pinellas Park. After breakfast at Tiffany's Restaurant on the first day of classes, we delivered school supplies to the Mattie Williams Neighborhood Center in

Safety Harbor. Please remember to patronize these two restaurants when you dine out, and please identify yourself as a member of NPCREA.

We are beginning the year with projects I hope you get involved in:

- Record all the Volunteer Hours you provided this summer and get that information to Eldon Weaver (email [pegasus\\_fl@yahoo.com](mailto:pegasus_fl@yahoo.com) or call him at 9548951073)
- If you know a senior high school student interested in becoming a teacher, contact Marie Grein for information concerning a Senior Scholarship (email [marie.grein@aol.com](mailto:marie.grein@aol.com))
- NPCREA is sad to announce that Marie Grein will retire as our treasurer at the end of May 2024. If you are interested in becoming Treasurer for 2024-2026, PLEASE contact Bob Stephens
- Once again, the FREF foundation is offering a "Practicing Educator Grant." If you know an in-service teacher who may need financial help for a project they are interested in, contact Marie Grein

The only way NPCREA grows is through your participation. We offer many positions for you to get involved. Interested? See me!

**Bob Stephens**



## VOLUNTEER SERVICES REPORT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Month(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Youth

Adult

Retired Educators Assn. \_\_\_\_\_

Community/Clubs \_\_\_\_\_

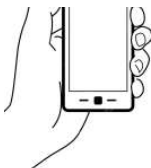
Hospital/Schools \_\_\_\_\_

Churches \_\_\_\_\_

Friends/Neighbors \_\_\_\_\_

All Others \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_



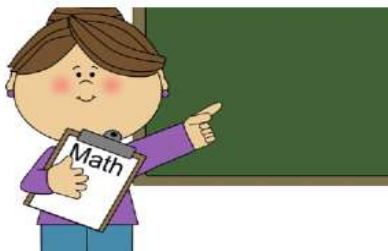
Phone to Mr. Eldon Weaver at 954.895.1073

or email to [pegasus\\_fl@yahoo.com](mailto:pegasus_fl@yahoo.com)

or cut out and bring to the meeting



# Blackboard Notices



## ...UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, Sept. 12, 11 am**

**Back to School** (Wear your favorite college colors) Bring socks, underpants, shoes, for Clothes to Kids. Speaker from Florida Health Dept. on emergency shelters. Lunch: Lemon-grilled chicken and scalloped potatoes, ice cream sundae.

**Tuesday, Oct. 10, 11 am**

**Halloween** (Wear fun fall colors and Halloween gear). Shop jewelry made by Lighthouse teens. Speaker from Lighthouse of Pinellas. Lunch: Stuffed shells, salad & breadstick, ice cream sundae.

**Tuesday, Nov. 14, 11 am**

**Salute to Veterans!** (Wear red, white and blue). Bring items for Veterans Hospital care packs. Our speaker has chronicled the struggle of returning POWs from Vietnam. Lunch: Roast turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, and apple cobbler.

**Tuesday, Dec. 12, 11 am**

**Winter Holidays** (Wear your holiday gear). Bring toys for the Salvation Army Toy Drive. Enjoy Christmas music and a Naughty Elf present swap. Lunch: Pork tenderloin, roast potatoes, veggies, and ice cream sundae.

Note: Any order may substitute the Clearwater Country Salad in place of the main dish. Please RSVP to [npcrea@gmail.com](mailto:npcrea@gmail.com) one week prior to each luncheon date.

## From Our Tech Specialist, Maura Hedrich

Tuesday, September 12, will be our first luncheon of the new school year. We are encouraging attendees to wear their favorite college colors or shirts to the luncheon. Last year it was so fun to see the different colleges represented!

It all begins at the Clearwater Golf Club at 11am on Sept. 12. Please feel free to come a few minutes early to socialize over an iced tea and get your 'Share the Wealth' tickets from Phyllis Walls if you wish to do so. There will be door prizes too!

One of Dr. Suess's books is titled *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* In that vein, give some thought to some of the places you traveled over the summer. At the luncheon, there will be an opportunity to write down where you may have been. It's great fun to see where members have traveled! You may also email Mary Blackmon about your trip along with a picture. I wonder who traveled the farthest or had the most unusual trip?

At the beginning of each new school year Clothes to Kids, a non-profit located in Clearwater, provides 5 days of outfits for Pinellas County students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. We will be collecting children's shoes size 9 to adult 16. Underwear: Boys: boxers and knit XS, S, M, L and Men: S, M, L and XL. Girls and Young Womens: 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. No-Show Socks: Girls & Boys: sizes 10 and up. Have fun shopping!

Did you meet a new retiree of education over the summer? Please feel free to extend them an invitation to the NPCREA luncheon on Tues., Sept. 12. You can even forward this Newsletter to them.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in college regalia on September 12!



# Not Back to Work Luncheon





# August 2 at Capogna's Restaurant





# Not Back to Classes Breakfast





# August 10 - Tiffany's Restaurant

What a wonderful breakfast we had at Tiffany's Restaurant on Thursday morning, August 10, as the in-service teachers returned to their classrooms and new students. Thank you, retired teachers and other friends of education, for your contributions of school supplies for needy students..

A big thank you to Rosemarie Ceraolo-O'Donnell (photo at right) who invited her Countryside High School retired colleagues. We collected all those wonderful school supplies for the Mattie Williams Neighborhood Center in Safety Harbor to share with their students.

***Maura Hedrich***







# Teachers!!!!



## Can You Use **\$1000**?

Do you have a project you would love to do with your students, but cannot get the funding?

Each year Florida Retired Educators Foundation (FREF) awards grants for \$1000 to educators who apply.

Winners have done everything from buying a French horn, to starting a robotics club, to buying wobble chairs for autistic students, and more.



### How to Apply



Go to [www.FREA.org](http://www.FREA.org)

Click on Scholarships, Grants, & Contests

Select Practicing Educator Grants

**Application Period is September 1, 2023-February 15, 2024**





# Scholarship for Future Florida Teachers

## Florida Retired Educators Foundation

Since 1980, FREF has awarded scholarships for high school graduates who wish to teach in the State of Florida. The amount is \$4000 over a four-year period, \$1000 per year.

### Eligibility Criteria

- ⇒ Seniors graduating from an accredited Florida high school (public/private)
- ⇒ Unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher
- ⇒ Minimum test scores –SAT - 1000 or ACT – 22
- ⇒ **MUST** attend an accredited Florida college/university (public/private)
- ⇒ **MUST** teach in Florida, following graduation. A copy of the **OFFICIAL FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL TEACHING CERTIFICATE** must be sent to the State FREA Office. The scholarship requires recipients to teach in the State of Florida for one year for every year the scholarship was awarded. If not, they must repay any scholarship monies received.

### Application Process

**Deadline:** January 20, 2024 for application. Other supporting documents must be in by January 31, 2024.

**Apply Online:** [www.frea.org/scholarships](http://www.frea.org/scholarships). If you do not have a computer, see your Guidance Counselor or the College & College Advisor.

**Note:** An additional \$500 one-year scholarship may be awarded by North Pinellas County Retired Teachers Association if an applicant is approved for an FREF scholarship in 2024.





# North Pinellas County Retired Educators Association Membership Application



**Unified Dues: \$50.00 Annually – July 1 to June 30**

<b>New Membership</b> <b>Renewal of Membership</b>	<b>General Member - Circle One:</b> Retired School Teacher/School Administrator/School Transportation School Maintenance, School Cafeteria. Other:	
FREA Benefits are fully available to ALL FREA members be they Regular or Associate.	<b>Associate Member</b> Associate: Any person supporting the mission of the Association may apply for associate membership. (Associate members may not vote as a delegate.)	
Circle One: Miss, Mrs., Ms., Mr., Dr., Other	Date:	
Your Name:	Spouse's Name	
Mailing Address	Apt./Condo	Telephone—Cell phone preferred (      )
City	State	Zip      County
E-mail address:	Your Month/Day/of Birth:	
School District Retired From:	Year Retired	Position Retired From

NPCREA and FREA are your advocates regarding your pension and the future of education in the State of Florida. Would you like to support our efforts on behalf of all present and future Retired Educators, and other beneficiaries of the Florida Retirement System like First Responders, etc.? This money will be used in a non-partisan way.

Yes, I would like to support FREA's Legislative Advocacy: \$ 4.00

Unified Dues for July 1–June 30: \$50.00

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to Florida Retired Educators Foundation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to: NPCREA (North Pinellas County Retired Educators Association)**

Mail to: NPCREA, P.O. Box 4248 Clearwater, FL 33758-4248

Have questions? *Email: [npcrea@gmail.com](mailto:npcrea@gmail.com)*

NPCREA has many active committees. All of our committees welcome new people, ideas and /or suggestions. The work of the committees listed below is explained at our meetings.

Please indicate your interest in one or more of them by checking the line by the committee. The chair will contact you personally.

Volunteer Services		Information Services		Newsletter	
Hospitality (Food)		Legislative		Photography (Historian)	
Sunshine		Name Tags		Retirement Planning	
Phone Tree		Membership		Publicity/Website	
Cultural Affairs		Nominating			



**Please add this page to your  
2023-2024 Member Directory:**

Rick Amstutz  
3409 Hyde Park Drive  
Clearwater, FL 33761  
727.983.9885  
flastutzr@gmail.com

Judy Kaser  
New Address:  
8664 Westpoint Drive  
Galloway, OH 43119

Marcia Lork  
Phone: 727.596.3884

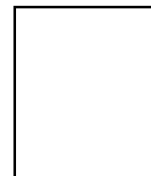
Linda Royer  
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lcroyer11@icloud.com

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Palm Harbor, FL 34683  
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Richard V. Werling II  
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Dunedin, FL 34698  
727.739.4449  
rvwer@msu.com



**NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY  
RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 4248  
CLEARWATER, FL 33758-4248**



## **NPCREA LEADERS FOR 2023-24**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>BOB STEPHENS</b>
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>	<b>SHARON OZBUN</b>
<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>MARIE GREIN</b>
<b>RECORDING SECRETARY</b>	<b>MARY BLACKMON</b>
<b>CORRES. SECRETARY</b>	<b>MARCIA LORK</b>
<b>TECH SPECIALIST</b>	<b>MAURA HEDRICH</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>CHERYL GOOD</b>
<b>PATRONAGE</b>	<b>RICK POPE</b>
<b>VOLUNTEER SERVICES</b>	<b>ELDON WEAVER</b>
<b>HISTORIAN/NEWSLETTER</b>	<b>MARY BLACKMON</b>

***Email Address: [npcrea@gmail.com](mailto:npcrea@gmail.com)***

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